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SUBJECT: Estonia Supports Macedonia's EU Negotiations

¶1. Pol Chief delivered reftel points November 16 to Tonis Idarand, MFA Director for Central and Southern Europe. Idarand replied that Estonia shares the USG opinion and supports the EC's recommendation to start formal accession negotiations with Macedonia. However, Idarand said that Greece and Cyprus would most likely prevent the EU taking this step. Estonia would like to see Greece and Macedonia agree to EU arbitration over the name issue, as Slovenia and Croatia recently did over their border dispute. Idarand added that PM Ansip had also warned the Government of Macedonia to avoid any provocative actions regarding the name issue.

¶2. According to Idarand, Estonia is very supportive of EU accession for the western Balkans. Estonia is sharing its own reform and EU/NATO accession experiences with these countries - Idarand said in the past twelve months there have been more than 70 official visits exchanged between Estonia and Macedonia.
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